

ranges with many interesting rock and mineral formations.

Several universities have conducted field trips to make special studies of these attractions.

In the early Spring, the mountains are an array of beautiful wild flowers of shades. A botanical study made the past Spring revealed hundreds of varieties of flowers blooming. Some of those found included: Lady's Slipper - in both pink and yellow; Orchids; Spring Beauties; Water Lilies; Wind Flowers; Columbine; Marsh Marigold; Buttercups; Bloodroot; Blue Lupino; Sweetbrier Rose; Wood Sorrel, and Fringed Polygala. As a result of the presence of so many flowers, 500 acres have been set aside as an arboretum for botany students in West Virginia University and other colleges.

Construction work is being carried on by two companies of Civilian Conservation Corps stationed in the park. T. M. Cheek, State Park Authority, supervises the plans that are developing a park system in West Virginia that will rival those in other States. Boyd B. Hill, and Grady H. Arbogast, Camp Superintendents, are in charge of the construction projects under way in Watoga State Park.

All of the parks are being financed mainly through Federal funds. Once they have been completed and turned over to the State authorities, it will be the responsibility of the State to maintain and operate the parks.

Inventory of Materials

Mr. Bella F. Yeager

From Camp Grapes -1-
and Pocahontas officials
sent to Bella Yeager
for research work

WATOGA STATE PARK

5000

Watoga State Park is owned by the State of West Virginia and contains 10,025 acres. 500 acres of this being virgin oak and white pine forest, 12 acres in lake, 100 acres of open meadow, leaving a total of 9413 acres of young forests or wooded land, which is well stocked with wild game. Approximately 4000 acres will be left as nature intended. The fame of this park is spreading and this rolling world would like to visit this picnic place on high mountains, clear streams, deep shady canyons, long wooded ridges, and open grassy places.

For the good of the United States as a whole and of West Virginia and its adjoining states in particular, it is a necessity that Watoga State Park be developed as quickly as possible so it can be used as an outing place for the public. This work of developing should be carried forward with utmost dispatch rather than be retarded by cutting down forces which at present are none too large to put Watoga State Park in shape to receive guests.

The National Park Service and State Park ECW in co-operation with the Conservation Commission fits in with the scheme of the old fashioned idea of a good time by getting back to nature and taking the women and children along. While visitors to the Yellow Stone National Park number into the hundreds of thousands each year, only a very small percentage of the people can avail themselves of this privilege by reason of great distances from centers of population. Then too, the many visitors who do visit Yellow Stone National Park do not necessarily follow the injunction given of

old, "to see Venice and die." Even they are possible visitors to Watoga State Park.

The Watoga State Park is partially surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest, and one will supplement the other in that there is no hunting on the park but nice head-quarters in the way of cabins for those who wish to hunt in the National Forest, and it will also furnish recreational areas for these hunters.

There is also unusual attractions in the Watoga State Park for students of geology and botany. Here begin the folded ranges of the endless mountains, and the park will supply headquarters and starting places to study first hand, probably the most interesting geological formations in all the country, without which the knowledge of no student is complete. Witness the continued expeditions of classes from Columbia, Dennison, and other Universities to this region.

As for the students of botany, we have the overlapping of the Canadian, Carolinian, and Virginian species of plants. There is a possibility in the future of this park taking care of field classes in botany not only from colleges and universities, but from high schools as well. No training in this most interesting and absorbing study can be complete without firsthand knowledge of this region where northern and southern flora mix with that you would naturally expect here.

People too, like to visit the Greenbrier Valley because of its rich Colonial, Revolutionary, Indian, and Traditional history. Watoga State Park when ready, will add its attractions to bring students of history here. The Park lies within two miles, connected with paved road, of U. S. Route 219, known as the Seneca Trail.

The Warrior's Road of James Fennimore Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales," stretching from the Seneca Lake, New York to Georgia. Locally this road was known as Kentucky Trace, traveled by Daniel Boone and other pioneers. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt writes of this in his "Winning of the West." George Washington referred to the people of this valley, in the darkest days of the War for Independence, as those who would save the country if all came to all. This park was a part of the neutral hunting grounds of Northern, Southern and Western Indian Tribes and as they were loath to give it up, this area became one of the bloodiest battle grounds in the Indian Wars. In the War between the States the sections surrounding this park was virtually a race track for the contending armies.

During the past season on holidays, Sundays, and even work days this park was run over with visitors. The majority of them demanding cabins, picnic grounds and other recreational facilities sufficiently to convince all officers concerned of the popularity of this park when completed.

At the present time there are 24 permanent structures, one dam forming a twelve acre lake, 13 miles of park roads, 14 miles of combination foot, horse and truck trails, 1 mile of electric power line, 12 miles of telephone lines, 23 miles of fencing, one lookout house, three vehicle bridges, 7,000 feet of water line, five drilled wells. In addition to that above, there is now under construction, one dwelling and eight cabins. To bring this park to within a semblance of completion, the following projects are being carried on; one guide and contact station, then additional over night cabins, 4000 feet of sewerage disposal system, two